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"Half Price Payments" for up to one year available on financing offers only on 2015 Rio/Forte/Optima/Rondo/Sorento models

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"Half Price Payments" for up to one year available on financing offers only on 2015 Rio/Forte/Optima/Rondo/Sorento models

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Sorento SX AT AWD 7-Seat shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 9.0L/12.7L

2015 SORENTO LX AT

from **$39** weekly for 50 payments | **0%** financing for up to 84 months | **$0** down payment^Δ

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $39 weekly payment amount includes $2,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF) 84-month financing. After 50 weekly payments at $39, the weekly payments will increase to $79^Δ. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[5]

Rio4 SX with Navigation shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/7.3L

2015 RIO LX MT

from **$21** weekly for 69 payments | **0%** financing for up to 84 months | **$0** down payment^Δ

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $21 weekly payment amount includes $1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F) 84-month financing. After 69 weekly payments at $21, the weekly payments will increase to $43^Δ. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[5]

Forte SX AT shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/8.0L

2015 FORTE LX MT

from **$24** weekly for 62 payments | **0%** financing for up to 84 months | **$0** down payment^Δ

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $24 weekly payment amount includes $1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Forte LX MT (FO541F) 84-month financing. After 62 weekly payments at $24, the weekly payments will increase to $48^Δ. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[5]

Optima SX Turbo shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.7L/8.9L

2015 OPTIMA LX AT

from **$36** weekly for 28 payments | **0%** financing for up to 84 months | **$0** down payment^Δ

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $36 weekly payment amount includes $1,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Optima LX AT (OP742F) 84-month financing. After 28 weekly payments at $36, the weekly payments will increase to $73^Δ. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[5]

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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Jailed journalist's family pinning their hopes on Baird

Mohamed Fahmy's relatives hope Egypt visit is 'finale' of ordeal PAGE 12

Samsung offered to buy BlackBerry for $7.5B: Report

Shares of the Canadian company spiked in response to the news PAGE 15

GONE GIRL AUTHOR TEASES FILM SEQUEL

BUT ONLY IF LEAD ACTORS ROSAMUND PIKE AND BEN AFFLECK AND DIRECTOR DAVID FINCHER ARE BACK ON BOARD, SAYS GILLIAN FLYNN PAGE 19

No jail time over secret toilet camera

Ruling. Restaurateur Allan Bosomworth gets suspended sentence after pleading guilty

Chef and restaurateur Allan Bosomworth arrives at provincial court for sentencing in Vancouver on Dec. 22, 2014. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A former Vancouver restaurant owner has escaped jail time and will instead serve a suspended sentence for secretly recording customers and staff who used the washroom.

A B.C. provincial court judge sentenced Allan Bosomworth to serve 12 months probation, required him to give a DNA sample, and ordered that he not possess or use any devices that take video or photos.

"His actions were designed to invade the privacy of his patrons and staff," said Judge Harbans Dhillon at the sentencing on Wednesday. "As employer and owner of the restaurant, he ought to have had their security, comfort and interests foremost in his mind."

Bosomworth, 39, pleaded guilty last September to one count of secretly observing nudity in a private place. He hid a small camera in the public restroom of Two Chefs and a Table over a period of four days in December 2012.

Crown prosecutors had asked for the suspended sentence, which means Bosomworth will receive a criminal record and could go to jail or face a fine if he violates the conditions of his probation. He also must complete 60 hours of community service and get counselling.

His lawyer told a sentencing hearing in December that Bosomworth was driven more by the thrill of knowing strangers' secrets — such as whether they were using drugs in the bathroom or were bulimic — than by anything sexual.

Dhillon said Wednesday she believed Bosomworth was compelled by sexual impulses. However, she took into account a psychiatrist's report that found he was unlikely to re-offend.

She added that his expressions of remorse appear to be sincere and heartfelt.

"He has struggled since his arrest with varying levels of depression and anxiety," she said. "He feels a sense of shame and embarrassment."

Dhillon said Bosomworth spends the majority of his time in "self-imposed isolation" in his father's home in the B.C. Interior. He has lost his job, girlfriend, friends and faced barriers in finding new employment, she said.

Bosomworth's lawyer asked for a conditional discharge in order to avoid a criminal record for her client. But Dhillon said the sentence must signal to the public that criminal breaches of privacy result in serious consequences.

She said protecting personal privacy is all the more important given the prevalence of security cameras and cellphone cameras in modern society.

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NEWS 1

Moving online

LGBTQ newspaper Xtra to cease printing in Vancouver

Vancouver's main gay and lesbian newspaper has announced it is ceasing publication.

Print editions of Xtra in Vancouver, Ottawa and Toronto are closing to focus efforts online, according to a statement from publisher Pink Triangle Press on Wednesday.

"We have concluded that a complete transition to digital media offers the best opportunity to continue to engage our audiences over the long term," said Pink Triangle Press president Ken Popert.

The closures mean 12 full-time employees from the company's publishing and administrative divisions will be laid off.

Fifty-seven employees, including its journalists, will continue to work for Xtra's daily website from all three markets.

Vancouver-West End MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert lamented the loss of the physical print product in Vancouver, which first published in 1993.

"Mainstream media has gotten better at covering gay, lesbian, queer and trans issues over time, but Xtra has led the way on that. It provided news on some types of stories no one else would cover," said Chandra Herbert. "I hope they will still be able to do that online and that we don't lose that."

The final issue of Xtra Vancouver, along with Xtra Ottawa, will hit the streets Feb. 12. The Toronto edition will close Feb. 19 on that publication's 31st anniversary. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Book offers flood in after Times column

'Changed my career.'
True story of how writer fell in love after using psychologist's series of 36 questions sparks slew of offers

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

Vancouver writer Mandy Len Catron says she has been flooded with book offers after her story about falling in love was published in the New York Times. FACEBOOK

A Vancouver writer says she is being inundated with book offers after her story about falling in love through asking an acquaintance a set of 36 questions was recently published in the New York Times.

"This has changed my career completely," Mandy Len Catron told Metro. "I've gotten emails from literary agents and editors at major publishing houses. It's just really beyond what I could have guessed would have happened."

Catron, who teaches writing at the University of B.C., wrote an essay about how she applied psychologist Arthur Aron's study to her own life.

In the 1997 study, Aron made "two strangers fall in love in his laboratory" through having them ask each other a series of 36 increasingly personal questions and then stare silently into each other's eyes for four minutes.

Last summer, Catron put the experiment to the test, sitting face-to-face with a university acquaintance she occasionally ran into at the climbing gym and about whom she had long wondered, "What if?"

A few months after doing the test, they started dating. Today, they are still together and in love, she said.

This week, she said her inbox has been flooded with emails from people asking her for writing and relationship advice.

While she isn't sure she's necessarily "qualified to give these people advice," Catron said she is "really touched that they were so moved by the article."

But Catron emphasized she doesn't want people to think the study is the "magical solution" to falling in love.

"What really happened is we did this study and we became close friends and we spent some time trying to decide if we wanted to be in a relationship and eventually decided that we did," she explained. "It could have happened anyway, but this study kind of gave us a way in."

For some time, Catron said, she has been working on a book, The Love Story Project, which explores the idea that love stories may actually be dangerous for relationships.

This week, Catron said she has been sending the manuscript to literary agents.

It's too early to say if it will be published, but for now, Catron said she's just trying to enjoy her 15 minutes of fame.

"It's been really overwhelming but unbelievably positive. People have just been really generous and very kind," she said. "It's pretty cool."

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Sorento SX AT AWD 7-Seat shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 9.0L/12.7L

2015 SORENTO LX AT

from $39 weekly for 50 payments | **0% financing for up to 84 months** | **$0 down payment^Δ**

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $39 weekly payment amount includes $2,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF) 84-month financing. After 50 weekly payments at $39, the weekly payments will increase to $79^. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[§]

Rio4 SX with Navigation shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/7.3L

2015 RIO LX MT

from $21 weekly for 69 payments | **0% financing for up to 84 months** | **$0 down payment^Δ**

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $21 weekly payment amount includes $1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F) 84-month financing. After 69 weekly payments at $21, the weekly payments will increase to $43^. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[§]

Forte SX AT shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/8.0L

2015 FORTE LX MT

from $24 weekly for 62 payments | **0% financing for up to 84 months** | **$0 down payment^Δ**

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $24 weekly payment amount includes $1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Forte LX MT (FO541F) 84-month financing. After 62 weekly payments at $24, the weekly payments will increase to $48^ Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[§]

Optima SX Turbo shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.7L/8.9L

2015 OPTIMA LX AT

from $36 weekly for 28 payments | **0% financing for up to 84 months** | **$0 down payment^Δ**

Includes "Half Price Payments" credit. $36 weekly payment amount includes $1,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments are based on 2015 Optima LX AT (OP742F) 84-month financing. After 28 weekly payments at $36, the weekly payments will increase to $73^. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.[§]

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Vancouver boasts record year with $2.8-billion building permit boom

Massive projects. City attributes high numbers to 'robust economy' and 'strong' housing market — but didn't mention the rush to get ahead of new building codes

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Massive construction projects including a new children's hospital centre and a 44-storey tower in Yaletown helped boost Vancouver's building permit values to an all-time high of $2.8 billion in 2014, the city announced Wednesday.

The record-breaking building permit values beat pre-recession levels and indicate a strong local economy where institutions, businesses, condo developers and single-family homeowners have the resources to build, head city planner Brian Jackson said.

"It is our robust economy, it is our strong residential housing market and it is, I'm hoping, a result of us being able to move projects efficiently through an improved system here at city hall," Jackson said.

With a construction value of $287 million, the Teck Acute Care Centre at B.C. Children's Hospital is by far the biggest project the city approved last year.

But the city's news release didn't brag about another driver of the building permit boom — a rush to get a permit before the new building code came into effect on Jan. 1.

The stricter bylaw, among other things, bans doorknobs and has higher requirements for energy efficiency and accessibility. Builders, homeowners and heritage advocates have expressed concerns it will increase the cost of renovations and new homes.

An architectural rendering of the new Teck Acute Care Centre at B.C. Children's Hospital CONTRIBUTED

"Some of the increase was definitely attributable to the small single-family home builders hoping to get building permits under old code," Jackson said.

The higher upfront expenses could be repaid in a few years from lower energy costs based on the city's calculations, Jackson added.

Regardless, building permit applications across all sectors jumped by 48.4 per cent in 2014. The wait time to get a permit ballooned to about 14 weeks from a prior average of six to eight weeks, Jackson said.

To deal with the influx, the city hired 14 part- and full-time staff and axed the need for a single-family homeowner to make an appointment to submit an application.

Permit wait times are already down to about eight to 10 weeks, and Jackson hopes the city will be able to drive that down further.

"In Vancouver, we have an extraordinary interest in preserving our heritage, our character homes, our trees, and ensuring a good quality of design … our processes do take longer," he said.

Distillery offers 'a unique story behind every cask'

Odd Society distillers Josh Beach, left, and Gordon Glanz are selling private casks of single-malt whisky as the city's craft distillery scene continues to grow. CONTRIBUTED

The local craft distillery scene continues to mature and age with distinction.

Four of B.C.'s 22 craft distilleries — Odd Society, The Liberty, Long Table and Yaletown Distillery — have made Vancouver home since new provincial and civic regulations allowed small-batch distillers to set up shop in 2013.

Gins and vodkas were the first out of the gate, followed by specialized spirits that have set each operation apart.

And soon, the main attraction (for many).

East Vancouver's Odd Society has launched the second round of annual private cask sales this month, promising customers exclusive access to some of the first batches of made-in-Vancouver whisky to hit the market.

For $1,500, buyers get 30 litres of Odd Society single-malt whisky stored in wooden casks, which is expected to yield approximately 45 750-milliletre bottles of Canadian whisky after three years of aging.

Along the way, customers get visitation rights and can check up on the aging process at annual tasting events. It's a novel, exciting and slightly scary experience for all involved, including the distillers.

"Obviously, we haven't sold a whisky yet and have nothing to go by, so it's a bit of a mystery and a gamble," said Odd Spirits co-owner Gordon Glanz.

"It's a waiting game and you have to be patient. But at the same time, that is whisky's appeal."

Early signs have been promising: A retired distiller from Scotland recently stopped by to check up on the quality of Odd Society's initial batch of whisky, and verified that it is aging nicely and tastes better than expected.

Glanz said sharing the experience with early adopters has been as rewarding as making the whisky itself.

One man bought three casks, one for each of his sons, and asked Odd Society to hang on to the whisky until they're of legal drinking age.

A group of local bartenders went in on a cask together so they'd have a reason to get together in three years.

Like the whisky itself, Glanz said customers are providing "a unique story behind every cask."

The excitement only means good things for a budding industry.

"Right now, we're kind of where breweries were five to 10 years ago," Glanz said, in reference to the explosion the local beer scene has experienced. "(Craft distillers in Vancouver) are making spirits as good as anything out there."

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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NPA councillor calls for city election review

Results review. NPA's George Affleck hopes motion will clarify 'some of the chaos' amid concerns over spoiled ballots

A Vancouver city councillor is calling for a review of the 2014 civic election results after a somewhat confusing day at the ballot box.

Non-Partisan Association Coun. George Affleck wants staff to look into "some of the chaos" on election day including long wait times, polling stations that temporarily ran out of ballots and inconsistent identification checking.

"I think it was important to seek clarification from staff on what happened, issues they heard about and how they'll solve it in the future," Affleck said.

Affleck is also concerned about a drastic increase in spoiled ballots due to overvoting — the number jumped to nearly 6,000 from less than 200 in 2011. None of these votes were counted in a race where councillor and school trustee positions were decided by only a few hundred votes.

Former mayoral candidate and civic blogger Randy Helten has asked the minister responsible for local elections and the city's chief election officer not to destroy the ballots (the city is legally allowed to do so as of Wednesday) in order for the public to examine whether there were any errors, technical or otherwise, in determining that these ballots were spoiled.

Council is scheduled to hear his motion on Tuesday.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

NPA councillors George Affleck and Elizabeth Ball EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Vancouver police

No charges for B.C. officers over dog bite incidents

B.C.'s Criminal Justice Branch says no changes have been approved against two police officers after suspects in separate incidents were bitten by service dogs.

The branch says a case on Oct. 7, 2013, involved an officer in Vancouver, and another on Jan. 31, 2014, occurred in Courtenay. The branch says the evidence in each case suggests there is no substantial likelihood that the officers who were handling the service dogs would be convicted of any offence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Coquitlam

Missing man, 60, found healthy

A man in his late 60s has been found after spending a chilly night on Burke Mountain in Coquitlam, B.C.

Peter Hsu gave his family a scare when he never returned from what was supposed to be a 40-minute hike on a downhill trail Tuesday afternoon.

Rescuers scoured the area by foot for hours before sunrise, until a member of the public found Hsu at around 8 a.m.

Coyle says Hsu, who is visiting from Taiwan and speaks little English, was overjoyed to be found and appears to be in good condition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Four charged. B.C. woman sexually assaulted, kidnapped twice

Four people have been charged in connection with the alleged abduction and sex assault of a woman police say was attacked twice in one week by the same man.

William Bassett Jr., 39, has been charged with two counts of sex assault and one count of kidnapping and unlawful confinement in the separate incidents.

Also facing kidnapping charges in relation to the second assault is Andreas Jacobus Macrea Bronk, 26, Charlene Mae Wald, 43, and Alisha Diane Wald, 21.

"It's obviously a crazy set of circumstances," Cpl. Holly Marks of Langley RCMP told Metro. "They're just really scary people."

Bassett was first arrested May 17, 2014, after police responded to a report of a sex assault where the victim was allegedly confined overnight.

Marks said the victim was able to escape, call police and identify her attacker.

A week later, on May 25, the same victim was reported missing.

Two days later, police found the woman, who told officers she had been kidnapped and held against her will.

Marks said the woman had obvious signs of a physical beating and told police she had been sexually assaulted a second time.

The woman also said a number of people had taken part in her alleged kidnapping and confinement.

Alisha and Charlene Wald have been released on bail and are scheduled to appear in court Jan. 23, while Bronk is still in custody on unrelated charges.

Bassett is in police custody on unrelated charges for an incident in which Surrey RCMP allege he kidnapped a man and held him for some time.

He is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 23.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

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Visit jdpower.com. ‡‡Based on Vincentric 2014 Model Level Analysis of full-size pickups in the Canadian retail market. ¥Lease based on a purchase price of $29,652 (including $1,000 lease credit, $4,500 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit, a $1000 manufacturer to dealer Option Package Discount Credit and a $893 Winter Cash) for a Silverado Double Cab 4X4 1WT. Bi-weekly payment is $149 for 36 months at 0.0% APR, and includes Freight and Air Tax, on approved credit to qualified retail customers by GM Financial. Annual kilometer limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometer. $975 down payment is required. Payment may vary depending on down payment trade. Total obligation is $12,611, plus applicable taxes. Option to purchase at lease end is $17,041. Price and total obligation exclude license, insurance, registration, taxes, dealer fees and optional equipment. Other lease options are available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. 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Winston Blackmore speaks to the media in the polygamist community of Bountiful in 2011. A judge has forbidden the religious leader from using trademarks belonging to the Mormon church. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Polygamist agrees to change group's name

Trademark infringement. Mormon church filed lawsuit against B.C. leader of polygamous community

A religious leader in a small polygamous commune in southeastern British Columbia has been forbidden from using trademarks belonging to the Mormon church, which has long condemned such fundamentalist splinter groups that continue to practise multiple marriage.

The Utah-based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints filed a lawsuit in B.C. Supreme Court last year after learning Winston Blackmore had registered the corporate name Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Inc. in the province.

Blackmore, who was charged last year with practising polygamy, is one of the leaders of Bountiful, a community whose residents follow a fundamentalist form of Mormonism that condones polygamy.

The mainstream Mormon church renounced polygamy more than a century ago and it has taken pains to make it clear it is not connected to Bountiful or a number of similar groups in the United States.

Blackmore consented to a court order earlier this week that bans him from using any variation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and forbids him from interfering with the church's use of the word Mormon.

The order also compels Blackmore to change his group's corporate name to the Church of Jesus Christ (Original Doctrine) Inc.

The church argued in court documents that Blackmore wrongly attempted to suggest his community was affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Links to Warren Jeffs

About 1,000 people live in Bountiful, located south of Creston, a short distance from the U.S. border. The community has links to the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or FLDS, and its jailed leader Warren Jeffs.

Social worker tells court he didn't shave former client's body hair

A social worker accused of shaving a former client's body hair while he slept, threatening him and then holding him against his will has denied the allegations in B.C. Supreme Court.

Michael Hume is facing one count each of sexual assault, forcible confinement and uttering threats stemming from an alleged incident at his home in Lytton.

The complainant, who cannot be identified due to a court order, testified through tears last week about waking up naked on Aug. 8, 2013, to find Hume, his former social worker, shaving off most of his body hair.

The man in his 20s said he reluctantly accepted a ride from Hume that night after drinking at a friend's house because he otherwise faced a long walk home. He said Hume drove him to his own home, where the alleged incident occurred.

Hume told court that the allegations are not true.

According to Hume, the complainant had threatened to ruin his reputation in the small Fraser Canyon community if he didn't hand over cash.

The complainant has testified that soon after arriving at Hume's home, he went into the washroom and became sick to his stomach after drinking with his friend.

He said Hume then handed him a drink but that he didn't consume most of it and soon blacked out, only to awake and find his former social worker shaving his body hair, including his genitals.

The young man said he was scared and made a phone call pleading for help.

Jurors have heard a recording of a call from the complainant to the band chief from Hume's house after the Crown alleges the assault occurred.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Parody on point: the talented Trocks truck their tutus to town

One night only. Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo returns to Vancouver for the first time since 1985 for a one-off show

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

So, uh, when's the last time you saw an all-male troupe of talented ballet dancers skillfully skewer ballet?

Breaking news: there's an all-male troupe of talented ballet dancers that skillfully skewers ballet.

Well, maybe not breaking news. After all, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo has been prodding and pirouetting since 1974.

But chances are you haven't seen them perform. And they're returning to Vancouver for the first time since 1985.

That, my transit-revelling readers, is the pre-SkyTrain era.

And just like SkyTrain, the group's been gettin' around, performing in more than 30 countries and 500 cities around the world over the last 40 years.

So why do crowds flock to the Trocks? For the sizzling, saucy, satirical interpretations of classical and modern ballets, of course. All performed with impressive technical and comedic chops.

In short: these guys are on point.

"You will never see another show like it," says Svetlana Dvoretsky, president and executive producer of Show One Productions. "On one level, this comes from the humour of full-grown men in drag and en pointe. Audiences quickly realize, however, this playfulness is backed by athletic and artistic skill of the highest degree.

"Even as they make you laugh — they take your breath away."

New York-based Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo perform at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre on Jan. 24. CONTRIBUTED

The program will include Go for Barocco (set to Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 and Paquita, as well as the company's signature take on Swan Lake.

Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo is one night only: Saturday, Jan. 24 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (8 p.m.). Tickets $29 to $129 (inclusive of taxes and fees). For more information visit ShowOneProductions.ca.

Le Grand Continental

Dance, rain or shine

Well, you might not see men in tutus at Le Grand Continental, but there will be dance. And you might just spot someone you know. Montreal-based choreographer Sylvain Émard Danse auditioned community dancers from across Vancouver for a chance to part of this huge public dance.

Part of the PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, the fun goes down at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza Jan. 24 and 25 (1 p.m. and 4 p.m.; 30 minutes, no intermission). This is a free, outdoor event (rain or shine). Visit PushFestival.ca for more information.

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WORKOPOLIS Let's get to work

Coquitlam trail. Naked man spotted along path mystifies Mounties

Mounties in Coquitlam are baffled about a man who has been spotted hiking in the buff, wearing nothing but a black backpack and white ear buds.

Cpl. Jamie Chung said Coquitlam RCMP recently responded to two reports of a naked man on the Crystal Falls Trail near Shaughnessy Street and Karley Crescent.

The man, who was simply on the trail without any clothes, hasn't threatened or initiated any conversation with anyone, he said.

Chung said the man has been spotted in an area police patrol regularly, but so far officers have not been able to track him down.

"From talking to witnesses, we don't believe the man was high on drugs or has a mental health issue," Chung said in a statement.

Quoted

"From talking to witnesses, we don't believe the man was high on drugs or has a mental health issue."

Cpl. Jamie Chung, adding that police hope to speak him and find out why the man is in the cold without any clothing.

"However, we do need to speak to him to find out why he is out in the cold without wearing any clothing."

Chung asked anyone who sees him to call police so officers can talk to him.

The man is described as white, between the ages of 20 and 25 and five-foot-nine with a slim build.

He also has dark brown, buzz cut hair.

On one occasion, he was spotted wearing a black backpack and white ear buds.

Anyone with additional information is asked to call Coquitlam RCMP at 604-945-1550 and quote file number 2015-772.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

Naked sightings

2

There have been two recent reports from within Coquitlam of a naked man walking on the Crystal Falls Trail.

East Vancouver

Seven hour police standoff ends in arrest

A seven-hour police standoff in East Vancouver ended Tuesday evening after officers arrested a man who allegedly assaulted his roommate.

The incident began around 11:30 a.m. when Vancouver police responded to a report of an assault in an apartment in the 800-block of East 6th Avenue.

When officers arrived, they found a man with minor facial injuries who was taken to hospital for treatment. Soon after, police found a suspect inside the apartment and asked him to come out.

After seven hours of negotiation, the man refused to leave the apartment forcing officers to obtain a warrant to enter the apartment. Police entered the suite around 7:30 p.m., police said the man still refused to comply with their demands so officers brought in a police dog.

The man, 36, is facing charges in relation to the alleged assault of his 47-year-old roommate, police said.

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

On January 28

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January 28 is Bell Let's Talk Day. For every text, mobile or long distance call made by a subscriber*, and tweet using #BellLetsTalk, Bell will donate 5¢ more to mental health initiatives across the country.

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Mary Walsh

Bell Let's Talk

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*Regular long distance and text message charges apply.

Jailed journalist's family pins hopes on Baird's visit to Egypt

Mohamed Fahmy case. Meanwhile, a government official in Ottawa is urging tempered expectations

The family of an Egyptian-Canadian journalist imprisoned in Cairo is hoping that Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird's visit to the city on Thursday will mark "the finale" to Mohamed Fahmy's quest for freedom.

But a government official in Ottawa was tempering expectations Wednesday that Baird's visit would immediately trigger Fahmy's release.

Fahmy has spent over a year in prison after he and two colleagues were arrested while working for Al Jazeera English. After a trial widely denounced as a sham, the three were convicted on terror-related charges they vehemently deny.

Baird's visit to Cairo comes at a sensitive time. A retrial was ordered this month for Fahmy and his colleagues, and Egypt's president has announced a new decree that gives him the power to deport foreigners convicted or accused of crimes.

Those factors have given Fahmy and his family hope that they will soon be able to return to their home in Montreal.

"I believe Mr. Baird's visit should be the finale," Fahmy's brother Adel said. "We are genuinely hoping that he reaches a resolution and announces that Mohamed will be deported to Canada."

Baird will be meeting with his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry on Thursday, where he is expected to raise Fahmy's case, after which the two will participate in a news conference. It is there that Fahmy's family hopes for some indication that their ordeal is nearing an end.

But a government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that things may not proceed quite that quickly.

Baird's two-day trip to Egypt, the official stressed, is part of the country's regular engagement with Egypt "writ large."

"We're not expecting necessarily that (Baird) is going to announce the release or anything like that when he's there," said the official.

It is unclear just how Fahmy's deportation process might play out in practical terms. If he is deported as a convicted criminal under Egyptian law, it's not known when he will become a free man in Canada. But his family is staying positive.

"The Egyptians may provide to the Canadians information on how they want to handle this," Fahmy's brother said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird, right, is met by the governor of Luxor, Major General Tarek Saad Eddin, on his arrival Wednesday to the airport in Luxor, Egypt. HAGGAG SALAMA/THE CANADIAN PRESS

John Maguire

Ottawa man killed fighting for ISIL in Syria, reports say

As reports emerged that former University of Ottawa student John Maguire had been killed while fighting in Syria, the federal public-safety ministry warned of the dangers of joining the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

"While we cannot speak about specific cases, our government is fighting terrorist groups who could pose a threat to Canadians," said an email from Public Safety Canada.

The reports of Maguire's death were based on a tweet from Twitter user and apparent ISIL supporter Abu Saman, who called Maguire and another man martyrs. Maguire came to national media attention when he appeared in a pro-ISIL video, saying that while he grew up like most Canadians playing hockey, guitar and attending university, he had come to support the radical Islamist cause. METRO IN OTTAWA

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Jesse Brown, founder of media website Canadaland.
COURTESY CANADALAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Challenging a 'cosy culture of journalism'

Canadaland. Website aims to fill void and watch the watchdogs

The man who helped bring to light two major controversies at the CBC — including this week's allegations against business reporter Amanda Lang — says he's made it his mission to take a critical look at what is happening inside Canada's media organizations.

Jesse Brown, whose podcast and media-news website Canadaland also helped break the Jian Ghomeshi scandal, says that unlike the U.S., Canada has allowed its media to remain largely unscrutinized.

"The American media holds the American media to account through hard news satire analysis. We had nothing like it here," he said in a phone interview Tuesday.

Brown said he initially pitched a media-criticism podcast to established news organizations, and most were receptive — until they realized they would come under scrutiny, too.

"So it was clear to me that something had to be done and probably had to be done independently," he said.

Canadaland reported on Monday that Lang had attempted to "sabotage" a 2013 story about a bank that had sponsored some speeches or events at which she spoke. It also said Lang was in a "serious relationship" with an RBC board member at the time.

Lang said Monday she disclosed the relationship in 2012 to the public broadcaster. CBC said the allegations that Lang tried to "sabotage" the story on RBC's use of temporary foreign workers were "untrue."

CBC isn't the only network to come under fire. Global Television suspended one of its Toronto anchors last week after a media report was part-owner of a public-relations firm.

"There's no overall culture of media criticism here," said Jeffrey Dvorkin, a media analyst and director of the journalism program at the University of Toronto's Scarborough campus.

"Part of it is that we're a smaller country than the United States and there is a tradition of everybody-knows-everybody-else," said Dvorkin, a former managing editor for CBC Radio. "As a result, it's kind of a cosy culture of journalism in this country ... People may want jobs, so they're not willing to be particularly critical."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Staff slashed

Damning report issued on military procurement

A study of Canada's dysfunctional military procurement system became a political football Wednesday as opposition parties pounced on the premise that delays and miscues were due in part to the Harper government's policies.

The report was written by the Conference of Defence Associations Institute and the MacDonald-Laurier Institute.

Critics say it will be hard for the Conservatives to dismiss the analysis, based on more than 50 interviews and a workshop with retired and serving acquisition officials, political staff and consultants.

The report provides an unvarnished look at a system long beset by delays, cancellations and cost overruns.

The researchers assign much of the blame to cuts by both Liberal and Conservative governments, as well as new reporting requirements set by the Harper government.

There were 9,000 staff dedicated to buying military equipment in the early 1990s; by 2004, over the course of successive Liberal budgets, that number had been slashed to about 4,200.

After the Conservatives came to power, the number of employees versed in the complex requirements and approval process inched up to 4,355 by 2009, but many positions remained vacant because of the Afghan war.

Then the Harper government's budget cuts took hold.

"The situation worsened due to the Strategic Review and the Deficit Reduction Action Plan, which (cut) 400 positions through the end of 2014/2015," says the report.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Yemen al-Qaida claims Charlie Hebdo attack

Paris. Extremists warn of more 'tragedies and terror' to come

Yemen's al-Qaida branch on Wednesday confirmed it carried out last week's deadly assault on a French satirical newspaper to avenge cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, as it called for unity among jihadi ranks and vowed more attacks on the West.

In an 11-minute video posted on the group's Twitter account, Nasr al-Ansi, a top commander of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, said the attack on the office of the Charlie Hebdo weekly — in which two gunmen massacred 12 people — was in "revenge for the prophet."

He warned of more "tragedies and terror" in the future, saying "you will look for peace and stability but you will not find it because of the deeds of those carrying out martyrdom operations and heroes of lone jihad."

Al-Ansi said AQAP "chose the target, laid out the plan and financed the operation." He said the radical Yemeni-American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Yemen in September 2011, had arranged the attack.

If confirmed, that would mean the Paris attack was years in the making. But Al-Ansi produced no evidence to support his claims, leaving lingering questions over the exact relationship between the attackers and the militant group's leadership in Yemen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Congratulations to you, the nation of Islam, for this revenge that has soothed our pain."

Nasr al-Ansi, a top commander of al-Qaida, in a video posted to the group's Twitter account

Crackdown

54 arrested for hate speech

France ordered prosecutors around the country to crack down on hate speech, anti-Semitism and glorifying terrorism and announced Wednesday it was sending an aircraft carrier to the Mideast to work with the U.S.-led coalition fighting Islamic State militants. Authorities said 54 people had been arrested for hate speech and defending terrorism in the last week.

Java Sea

Singapore navy finds AirAsia fuselage

A Singaporean navy ship has found the crashed AirAsia plane's fuselage, a 30-metre-long section with a wing attached, in the Java Sea, authorities said Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sex abuse

Model pursues charges against Bill Cosby

A model who claims Bill Cosby drugged and sexually abused her at the Playboy Mansion met with Los Angeles police on Wednesday to pursue criminal charges against the comedian over the 2008 incident. An attorney for Chloe Goins said after the meeting that his client is the first woman accusing Cosby of sexual misconduct whose case may fall within the statute of limitations. More than 15 women have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct, including several who say the comedian drugged and raped them in incidents dating back four decades. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope urges forgiveness in war-torn Sri Lanka

Pope Francis blesses a child as he arrives in Madhu, Sri Lanka, Wednesday. Pope Francis travelled to the jungles of war-torn northern Sri Lanka on Wednesday to show solidarity with the victims of the country's 25-year civil war and urge forgiveness and reconciliation "for all the evil which this land has known." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charlie Hebdo sends 1,500 copies here

The Canadian distributor for the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo says 1,500 copies of the latest issue — which features a caricature of the Prophet Muhammad on the cover — will be available in different parts of the country Friday.

Louis-Philip Vermeersch, director of sales for LMPI, says that's up from the 100 issues that are usually delivered for distribution each week.

But he says the increased production likely won't be enough to meet demand for the issue from those Canadians who want to see the latest copy of a magazine at the centre of an international tragedy.

Charlie Hebdo is usually available only in Quebec and one store in Toronto, but Vermeersch says distribution will be more widespread this time.

Copies will be sent to 135 stores across the country, the vast majority of which will be in Quebec. Stores will receive an average of 10 copies apiece, Vermeersch said.

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BlackBerry denies report of takeover by Samsung

Shares jump on TSX.
Canadian company's stock rose to highest level since early 2012

BlackBerry has responded to a dramatic jump in its stock price, saying late Wednesday that it has not engaged in discussions with Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. about a possible takeover.

The response followed a report from the Reuters news agency, which said Samsung had met with BlackBerry executives over the possibility of buying the Canadian company for as much as $7.5 billion US.

Reuters cited both a source familiar with the proposal and related documents.

BlackBerry shares jumped nearly 30 per cent after the report emerged, leading the company to react with a public statement. "BlackBerry has not engaged in discussions with Samsung with respect to any possible offer to purchase BlackBerry," the company said.

The comments did not address whether Samsung had expressed an interest in the company that BlackBerry executives haven't entertained.

BlackBerry and Samsung announced a partnership last November where the Waterloo, Ont.-based company made its mobile security technology available for the Android operating system. For BlackBerry, the arrangement gave their software the ability to work on Samsung's Galaxy and Note smartphones, while it provided Samsung an opportunity to get the attention of business customers that BlackBerry courts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Purported offer

$7.5B

Samsung Electronics Co.'s purported offer to buy Canadian company BlackBerry

European court backs London's black cabs

A taxi driver uses a bus lane in central London Wednesday. The iconic black cabs, under pressure from taxi app Uber and cheaper taxis known as minicabs, got some good news Wednesday: They won't have to share their right to drive in bus lanes with rivals. A European Union court dismissed a challenge by private taxi firm Addison Lee, which argued that the rule violated European competition laws. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Black boxes. Auto lenders tracking buyers with poor credit

A little-known black box buried in the guts of many vehicles on Canada's roads makes drivers with poor credit the hapless targets of what is becoming a 24-hour surveillance culture.

Known as a starter interrupter, the GPS-equipped, wallet-sized box is popular with auto-loan companies: If the owner stops making payments, the lender can send a signal to the box, disabling the vehicle by shutting off the starter. The GPS function also allows for tracking the customer's movements.

Thousands of starter interrupters have been on the roads in Canada for years, but little has been said about how they're used and the information lenders can collect.

Consumer protection laws have curtailed their use in Quebec, and serious questions are being raised about their safety in the United States, following reports about moving cars being shut down remotely — though one company that makes them denies that's even possible.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Starter-interrupters

- The device can't disable a moving car because it's connected to the starter and not the ignition system, PassTime says.

Boston

Uber agrees to share trip data

Uber has reached an agreement with Boston to share information about the trips passengers take using its on-demand service, officials said Wednesday.

Starting in about two weeks, Uber says it will provide Boston with the distance and time passengers travelled using the ride-hailing service, as well as general pick up and drop off locations. The company promises the information will be anonymous and protect personal information.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VOICES

NEWSPAPER EDITS OUT WOMEN

Above: World leaders attend a march in solidarity with the Charlie Hebdo attack victims in Paris. Below: Female leaders erased from a similar photo of the rally, by HaMevaser newspaper. ABOVE: GETTY IMAGES; BELOW: SCREENGRAB

The world is watching — and arguably just waiting — for the next head-slapping action to find, screengrab and broadcast to the world

KRISTEN THOMPSON
readers@metronews.ca

It seems you can't get away with much these days because Little Brother is there, taking a screengrab of your perceived offence and retweeting it for the world to turn into a meme.

On the hot seat this week is conservative Jewish newspaper HaMevaser, which removed all of the women from a photograph of world leaders marching in Paris in support of Charlie Hebdo, and printed said photograph on its front page.

Gone from the photo are German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini and Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt.

The edits are offensive and head-slapping for the obvious reasons: Removing people from a photograph and presenting the image as fact, in a newspaper, is not journalism. Painstakingly editing out the women, specifically, suggests a dubious view on the value of women, in my opinion.

What's interesting is the idea that even a little-known newspaper with a relatively small circulation can so quickly catch the attention — and derision — of the entire world.

Five years ago, the Haredi (Ultra-Orthodox) community's practice of not publishing pictures of women for the sake of modesty would likely have gone relatively unnoticed. And yet, when Jewish site Walla outed HaMevaser over the altered Paris photo, it spread like wildfire around the web. As the world shrinks and the spotlight of social media grows, the viewpoints of people and communities — no matter how insular — become exposed for all to see, judge, re-tweet and hashtag.

In this new world of cellphones, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, the world's eyes are always on us.

Women only

This isn't the first time an ultra-orthodox newspaper has edited women out of photographs. Following the death of Osama Bin Laden, Brooklyn-based ultra-orthodox Jewish newspaper Der Tzitung photoshopped Hillary Clinton and another woman out of the photograph of U.S. President Barack Obama and his security team watching the raid.

- The photo has also inspired several memes, including this one by satirical news site Waterford Whispers News, which edited all the men out of the image.

A version with the men erased runs on a satirical site. SCREENGRAB

As a Muslim journalist, I'm not OK with the Charlie cover

ALI ZAFAR
readers@metronews.ca

I'm appalled by the renewed satirizing of Prophet Muhammad in Charlie Hebdo, not only as a Muslim but also as a journalist.

My condemnation stems from the fact that the Prophet is a revered figure in my faith who should not be drawn out — let alone satirized in untoward illustrations — according to widely held Islamic traditions.

But my condemnation goes deeper than that. As a person of faith, and a person of colour, it baffles me that the right to freedom of speech is being used as a right to be racist and bigoted toward Muslims, which is made clear by the obscene cartoons in editions of Charlie.

Muslims are a racialized demographic, with the majority of French Muslims coming from a North African background, while in Canada, the majority of Muslims are of Pakistani, Indian, Arab or Iranian origin.

I've heard the phrase "Muslims aren't a race" many times, but just about every asinine image of Muslims or the Prophet in Charlie depicts them as brown or black individuals.

Working in the media, I understand the responsibility that comes with freedom of speech and how that involves making moral judgments in news coverage on a daily basis. One of the main reasons why I got into this profession is because of its power to be a voice for the minority.

I can't help but feel that publishing the satirical Muhammad cartoons does nothing more than allow a select few to flaunt their privilege to laugh at images that further antagonize an already marginalized group, especially in France.

These cartoons play into people's fears of Muslims and are used to justify increased surveillance on a national scale. They also fuel the rampant Islamophobia that is now raging in France, with at least 60 reported anti-Muslim incidents since the Charlie attack, from firebombs and pig heads thrown into mosques, to veiled women subjected to insults on the street. At the same time, I understand that Islam forbids violently censoring free speech, as the gunman did in the Charlie Hebdo attack.

The Prophet himself faced violence and verbal ridicule from individuals, but never used harsh words or physical force in return. It's his example that I'll continue to follow.

Ali Zafar is a copy editor and writer for Metro News.

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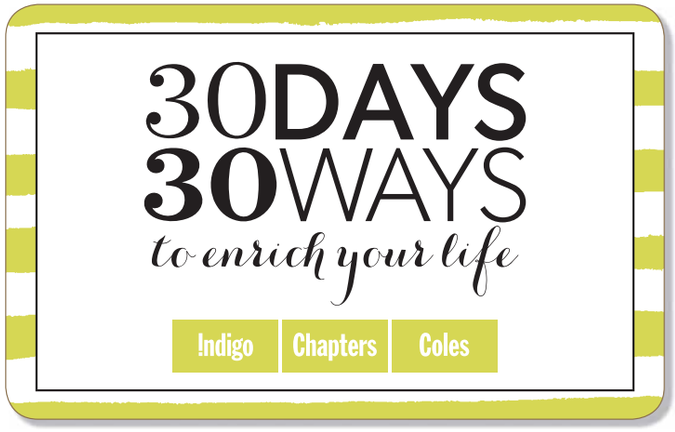

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Cooper on laughing with Clint

Book to film. Eastwood lightened the mood while filming the sombre American Sniper

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York

Bradley Cooper plays Chris Kyle in American Sniper. CONTRIBUTED

Bradley Cooper starts off the press conference for American Sniper very, very seriously. "I try not to look in the mirror too much, quite honestly," he says at one point, not remotely cracking a smile.

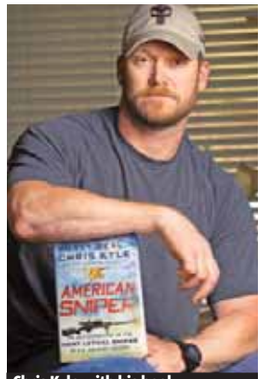
Eventually he loosens up, busts out a decent impersonation of the film's director — one Clint Eastwood — and reminisces warmly about that time Eastwood oozed childlike glee watching a kid on set: none other than the real-life daughter of Army sharpshooter Chris Kyle (played by Cooper in the film) and his widow Taya.

"We laughed a tremendous amount on the movie — shockingly, given the content," Cooper says. "You're so excited to come to the set every day, because Clint Eastwood is there." The loose nature is just how Eastwood likes to work. "I think maybe why he gets so many great performances out of people is because he makes them feel really at ease. He's curious. John Huston said towards the end of his life that that's what keeps you going: curiosity. He's just so curious. He's like a little kid."

Cooper's no modest fan of the director's work, citing Unforgiven as "maybe the best American film."

He feels a connection between the best picture winner and American Sniper.

"This character is almost William Munney prior to when we meet him in Unforgiven: his wife has since died and he's



Chris Kyle with his book. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

taking care of the kids and he comes back because (his friend) has been murdered. We saw a lot of similarities."

There was another incentive to give Eastwood the reins: "Chris Kyle said if there was any way he had a choice of who would direct the movie, it would be Clint Eastwood. And then he had his wish."

They had fun making American Sniper, but the film is absolutely serious.

Not only is it about the damage war does to families and soldiers' psyches, but Kyle himself was murdered by a troubled vet while the film was in pre-production.

They had an extra responsibility to get the story right and impart a useful message. "The takeaway for those who can relate to (Kyle) is that it will be healing," he says.

But even those who aren't veterans themselves can see "what vets go through, what Taya has gone through."

Though Kyle's four tours were during the Iraq War, Cooper doesn't see American Sniper as political. "It's not a movie about the Iraq War. It's a movie about what someone like Chris has to go through as a soldier — the dilemmas, the horror of it," he explains. "That's all we ever talked about. It's not a political movie at all. It's a movie about a man. It's a character study."

Cooper actually trained with live ammo, which both helped and harmed his work. He found the first sniping sequence much too real.

"I'd only felt the gun with live ammo, and I saw two actors in the scope. My stomach turned and I moved the gun away," he recalls. "I said, 'We can't shoot the scene with them there.' I just couldn't do it, even though the gun wasn't loaded. I had a glimpse of what a soldier has to go through."

With Eastwood, Cooper was working for a director famous for doing as few takes as possible, sometimes just one. Cooper found that refreshing.

"Sometimes you do movies, you think, 'Well, I'm warming up on the first three and then we'll get into it on seven and eight. That's not happening on this movie at all. You better bring it the first take," he says. "It's almost like theatre in a way, doing a Clint Eastwood movie."

It even felt familiar to him, based on his time with Silver Linings Playbook and American Hustle director David O. Russell, who relies heavily on spontaneous, off-the-cuff traits.

"On a David O. Russell movie, when you step out of the van in the morning you better be able to shoot the scene the moment your foot touches the ground," he explains. "I've come to love it, because there's an energy and vitality, a sense that it's actually happening. If I ever have a chance to direct I would always want to do that. Never make them feel like they have 100 takes. Make them feel like this is it. You want to raise the stakes, anyway."

Eastwood's adaptations

American Sniper is based on Chris Kyle's 2012 true story, American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History, which sat on the The New York Times Best Seller list for 37 weeks.

This isn't the first book director Clint Eastwood has adapted for the big screen. Here's a look at five of other movies in his lengthy filmography that topped the best-seller list:

1 The Eiger Station: Eastwood starred in and directed this 1972 thriller about a mountaineering art dealer who is also a paid assassin.

2 The Bridges of Madison County: A sensation when it was released in 1992, the book is one of the bestsellers of the 20th century. Eastwood turned it into a 1995 film starring Meryl Streep.

3 Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil: This 1997 crime drama was on the The New York Times Best Seller list for 216 weeks.

4 Mystic River: Dennis Lehane published his novel about three childhood friends reunited by a murder in 2001. Eastwood turned it into an Academy award-winning film in 2003.

5 Invictus: This 2009 film is based on John Carlin's book, Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation, about the 1995 Rugby World Cup in South Africa. METRO

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Thriller about commuters full of twists, turns and shocks

Debut novel. The Girl on the Train's narrator turns passengers into characters, then tries to imagine what their everyday lives are like

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News in New York City

Paula Hawkins' first book, the emotional thriller The Girl On The Train, only came out on Tuesday, but DreamWorks has already bought the movie rights.

With every early review comparing it to Gone Girl, the stakes are pretty high for this novel, about a woman named Rachel who sees the same people on her commute to and from work each day and builds up stories in her mind about them.

An alcoholic, Rachel makes for an unreliable narrator, which in part is responsible for the book's many twists, turns and its shocking ending.

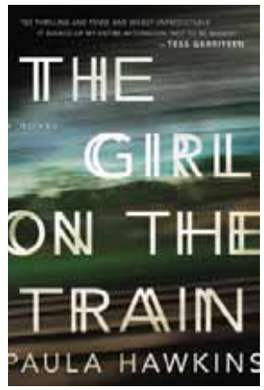
Making 'subway friends'

"When I used to commute for work, one of my favourite things to do was to look out the window and into peoples' houses if I could see in," Hawkins tells us.

"The idea for the book partially comes from the idea that you see these people every day and you feel like you've made a connection, but it's actually imaginary. And then thinking about what a vulnerable, lonely person would do with that sensation."

Hawkins says she liked the idea of creating a narrator with a drinking problem because it creates an unreliability in a lot of ways.

"You can't trust yourself, your memory or your own judgments," she says.



Getting it all on paper

When she sat down to write the book, Hawkins says she first created a detailed chapter-by-chapter outline to keep track of the multiple characters and time jumps, but there were a few things that took her by surprise.

"There's a character, Anna, who changed quite a lot for me," she says.

"I saw her completely differently at the end of the book than I did at the beginning."

On those Gone Girl comparisons

When asked if the constant Gone Girl comparisons are flattering or annoying, Hawkins says it's a double-edged sword.

"It's fantastic because I think Gone Girl is such a great book, but at the same time, I'd like (Girl on the Train) to be seen on its own merits as well."

As for that movie deal, Hawkins says things are still very early and she's just crossing her fingers.

For now, she's content with just getting the book in the hands of commuters, getting them so immersed that they just might miss their stop.

Girl on the Train author Paula Hawkins. CONTRIBUTED

Literary awards

Giller jury jumps to five members

The prestigious Scotiabank Giller Prize is expanding its jury from three to five members.

Organizers say the 2015 jury will include Canadians Alison Pick, Alexander MacLeod and Cecil Foster, as well as Britain's Helen Oyeyemi and Ireland's John Boyne, who will serve as chairman.

This is the first time in the award's 22-year history that it has appointed a five-member jury.

Executive director Elana Rabinovitch says the larger jury "allows for more and different perspectives and injects new vigour into the quality of the deliberations."

"Bringing more readers into the mix, gifted individuals with varied backgrounds and voices, is bound to bring a different level of discernment to the conversation about the books," she said in a statement.

The Giller prize purse increased last year to $140,000, with $100,000 going to the winner and $10,000 to each finalist.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gone Girl. Author behind hit film hasn't ruled out working on a sequel

Gillian Flynn's says her thriller, Gone Girl, could see an on-screen sequel, but only if her dream team agrees to it.

Flynn would want lead actors Rosamund Pike and Ben Affleck to return, along with director David Fincher, should the story continue.

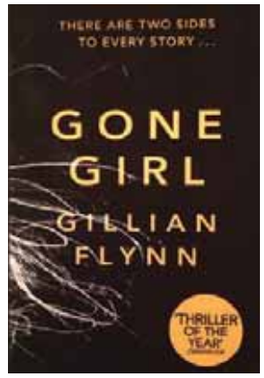
"There could be a sequel at some point. If everyone is game to get the gang back together, it could be really fun a few years from now," Flynn told the New York Daily News just before this week's release of the film on DVD and Blu-ray.

"We could pick it up and see what those crazy Dunnes are up to a few years down the road and if they got on — not well, I don't think.

"I would have to have the exact same people to do it — I would want Rosamund, Ben and Fincher to do it."

Flynn's 2012 novel was a critical and popular success but was overlooked on prominent awards lists, prompting a discussion over the perceived preference for high-brow literary fiction at book awards.

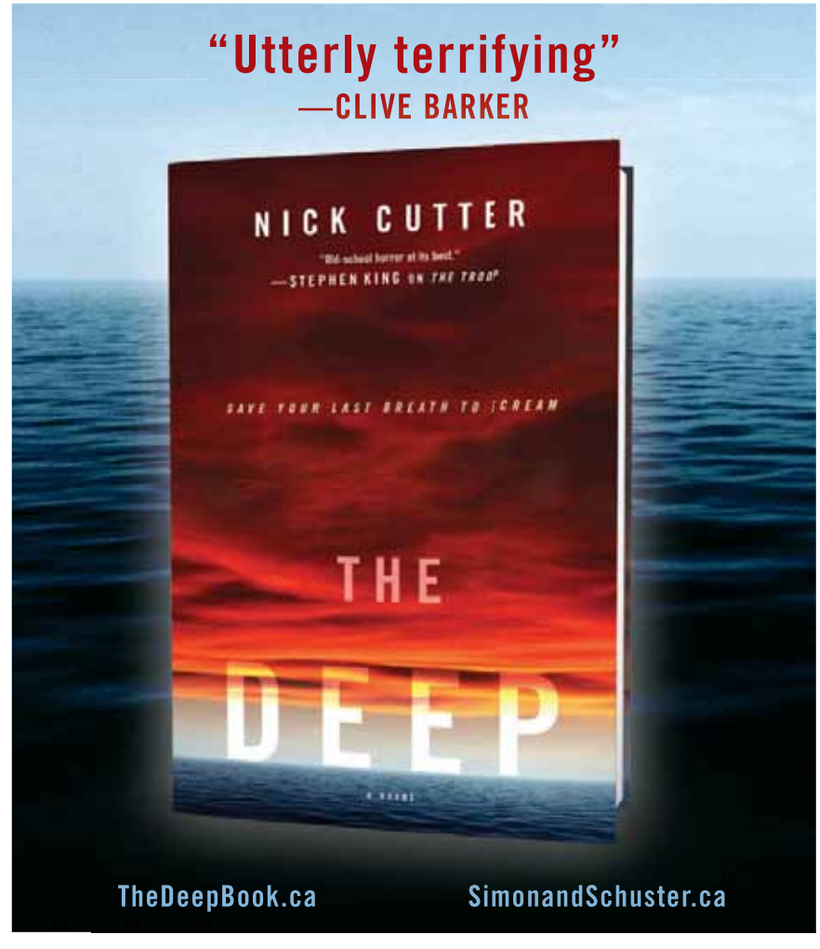
The 2014 film adaptation



went on to make more than $365 million, on a $61-million budget.

It accrued four nominations for the Golden Globe awards — for best actress, director, adapted screenplay and original score.

Although it was shut out at the Golden Globes, it remains in contention for two awards at the British Academy Film Awards on Feb. 8 (for best actress and adapted screenplay), and was considered a front-runner for today's Academy Award nominations. AFP



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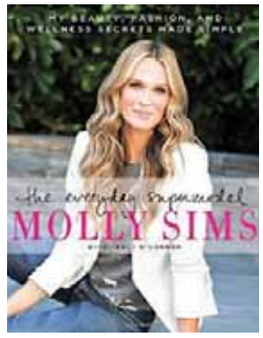
Sims' secret to true beauty: Learn how to respect yourself

Supermodel author. Sims says listening to your inner voice and believing you can be beautiful will help you become the best you can possibly be



Molly Sims is a self-professed girl's girl and proud of it.

She loves to share the tips and secrets she's discovered to looking and feeling good.

"I love sharing information like, 'OK, you need to go blonde. Don't forget about your eyebrows ... Oh my God, you've got to check out this smoothie. OK, so I just went to this place and I swear to you I lost three pounds,'" she said in a recent interview.

Sims has compiled some of her tips for looking and feeling great in her new book, The Everyday Supermodel: My Beauty, Fashion, and Wellness Secrets Made Simple (Dey Street Books).

She enlisted the help of experts like stylist-designer Rachel Zoe and Pilates instructor Alycea Ungaro.

Do you really believe that by following your book, the everyday woman can look like a supermodel?
I knew I was gonna get a little flak on The Everyday Supermodel because here I am calling myself a supermodel.

I cringe sometimes at the word, but ... I've done this for 20 years. I've made myself believe like, 'OK, I can do this.'

I can challenge myself. I can respect myself and I can be the best version of myself and I can bring out that inner supermodel. That inner X factor. That's what we have to bring out of all of us.

I have faked it till I've made it and ... the one thing I've done along the way is I've learned and I've looked and I've copied and I've read and I've listened.

That's ultimately why I wrote the book — because people always go, 'Oh, you were born that way,' and I got so tired of hearing that.

You write that taking care of yourself is more about respecting yourself than anything else.
You have to respect yourself, you have to challenge yourself and you have to be the best version of yourself. If you look good, you feel good.

You're expecting your second child, but you've been honest about gaining a lot of weight during your first pregnancy (with son Brooks). Was the weight hard to lose?
I gained 74 pounds in my last pregnancy. I was 204. I couldn't even see my belly. I ended up having a thyroid condition that they didn't know about. But it doesn't matter, I still had to lose the 80 pounds. It took me 15 months.

You devote a chapter to finding love, which you say you've had problems with.
I worked with a really good therapist a few years ago. Her name is Mary Goldenson and she wrote this amazing book. I was really co-dependent. I couldn't get out of a relationship, and I was just stuck. She made me read one of her books called, It's Time: No One's Coming to Save You.

I needed someone to hold me accountable, and the person I needed to hold me accountable was me. I needed to stop saying, 'OK, I'm gonna do this later, and if this happens then I'm gonna do this.'

Like what is happening now? And she told me to get grateful and she told me very hard things that I didn't want to hear. 'Really, you think you're gonna change someone?'

It was tough and I cried. ... We weren't going to write (about it but) it was one of the best chapters.

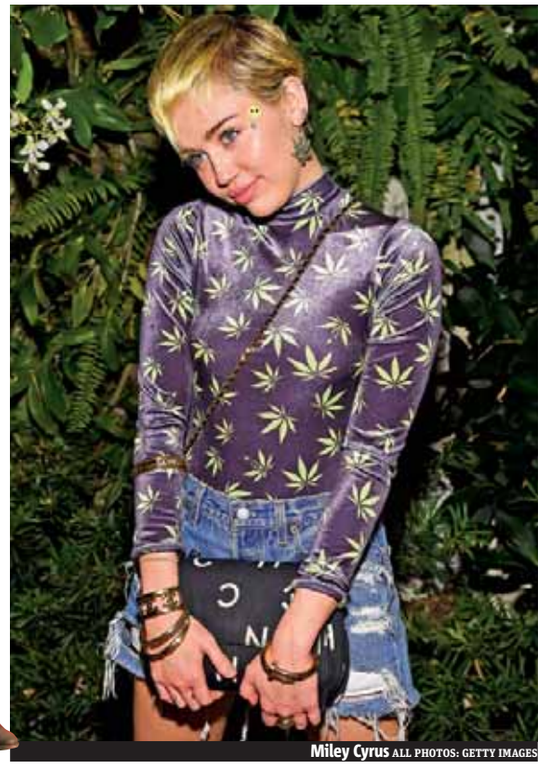
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Molly Sims
GETTY IMAGES

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



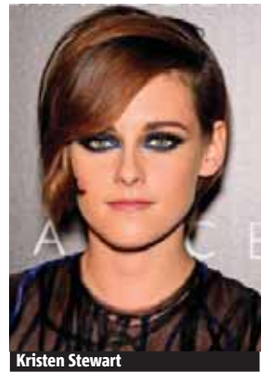
Miley Cyrus ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

What if Miley took her clothes off and everybody yawned?

Oh, Miley. Former Disney star Miley Cyrus just can't stop showing off her goods to anyone who will look. To that end, she's gifted V Magazine with a collection of "candid" Polaroids from her recent world tour to celebrate their music issue, hitting newsstands today. The magazine is even offering a fold-out poster of a fully nude Cyrus emerging from a bubble bath. Enticing, right? Here's the thing, though: We apparently live in a world now where a collection of naked Miley Cyrus pictures is met with a collective yawn instead of the startled gasp I assume she was hoping for. As commenters over at Defamer put it, "It just seems so boring and one-dimensional" and, "I for one appreciate Miley's attempt to desexualize female nudity."

Kristen Stewart really does care

It is a question that has plagued scholars, lo, since the nascent days of Twilight cinematic history: Exactly how many f—s does Kristen Stewart give? Many have argued that her enduring appeal is rooted in her natural inability to not care about anything, but Stewart herself. She renounces such spurious categorization. When renowned culture critic and Salon deputy entertainment editor Anna Silman recently lauded Stewart with, "You are kind of a hero to people, in a way. A lot of people admire what they see as your give-no-f—s attitude," Stewart took extreme exception. "I'm like, 'Actually, no one gives a f— like me,'" Stewart insists. "No one gives more of a f— than me. It's just ironic to me. I'm always like, 'Really?'" So there you have it. The debate is settled.



Kristen Stewart

More bad news for the ladies of The View

Things are not looking good for Rosie, Whoopi and crew, as execs at ABC are said to be "ready to abandon ship" on long-running daytime talk show The View, according to the Mail Online. "The brass at ABC feels like they've tried to do everything possible to breathe new life into this show," a source says. The View, currently in its 18th season, would be replaced by an extra hour of Good Morning America, a move similar to the one the Today show made years ago. "ABC feels it has exhausted their options with The View and now it's time to expand the existing franchise. They feel that since GMA is already beating NBC's Today during the first two hours of the broadcast, why not extend the morning broadcast?" But what will Whoopi Goldberg do with her mornings now?

Rosie O'Donnell and Whoopi Goldberg

The year gets a bit quirkier as Björk readies new album for March

Björk stumbled onto Twitter this week to announce her first album in four years is on its way, and she describes it in the most Björk way possible. The announcement of the album, Vulnicura, came along with a handwritten note describing what we can expect from the Icelandic iconclast's new tunes. "The songs are called Stonemilker, Lionsong, History of Touches, Black Lake, Family, Notget, Atom Dance, Mouth Mantra and Quicksand," she writes. "I hope you will enjoy it!"

Bjork

I can already see Mouth Mantra and History of Touches becoming club hits. The new work, her ninth studio album and the first since her experimental Biophilia in 2011, will be released in March.

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Vow to find a perfect spot

Destination: Married. Make your wedding day a memorable adventure with friends and family

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

According to Wedding Bells magazine's 2014 Trend Report, 15 per cent of Canadian brides are planning on having a destination wedding. SHUTTERSTOCK

For many, exchanging vows on a beach at sunset in a hot climate is the definition of a dream wedding.

According to Wedding Bells magazine's 2014 Trend Report, 15 per cent of Canadian brides are planning on having a destination wedding. The magazine also notes that the total number of destination weddings has more than doubled since 2009.

"Destination weddings used to be a rare occurrence," said Soha Lavin, a wedding planner with Vancouver's Countdown Events Planning & Design. "But now, more and more of our couples are holding destination weddings in the most convenient manner to ensure all of their loved ones can attend."

"We are definitely seeing an increase in these types of weddings," said Tracey Manailescu, co-founder of The Wedding Planners Institute of Canada Inc. (WPIC) "Some of our WPIC alumni have switched to only working with couples having destination weddings."

Where to go?

Mexico, Jamaica, and Dominican Republic are always favourites, Manailescu said.

"They're easy for guests to travel to for larger wedding parties and cost-effective," she said.

However, couples are also becoming more and more interested in Europe.

"Italy, Greece, and Spain are hot because of their stunning views and architecture, memorable adventures, and great food and wines," Manailescu said.

Lavin also said Maui and California have piqued some of her clients' imagination.

How should you pick?

First of all, are there any destinations that have a special meaning to you?

Another major factor in choosing your destination is whether it's easy and affordable to travel to.

"So you need to find out: Do guests need to switch planes and take long shuttle rides to get to the location?" Manailescu said. "If the resort or hotel is expensive, the couple should look for alternative locations for guests to stay and then provide day passes for the wedding festivities."

Also don't forget to consider health and safety concerns — keep up-to-date on travel advisories via the Canadian government. (travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories)

Finally, if you have selected your resort, do your homework and find out if there is any construction or repairs going on that may hinder wedding-related activities.

Get a little help

Is there too much to think about? Professional wedding planners and agents aren't just helpful, they are knowledgeable, too.

"Consider a licensed travel agent as they will provide guidance and be in the loop with any changes or information affecting travel," Manailescu said. "And a WPIC-certified wedding co-ordinator can help liaise between venue, vendors and keep on things such as marriage licenses, time restrictions, venue co-ordinators and more."

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Saving money on certain parts of a wedding can allow you to splurge on other aspects, such as flowers. SHUTTERSTOCK

Align your budget and your special day

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Given the cost of your average wedding, it's no surprise that brides are looking for ways to get the biggest bang for their buck.

We asked Amanda Douglas, a Winnipeg-based event and wedding planner of Amanda Douglas Events, for her recommendations on budgeting and saving for the big day.

1 Create an itemized list. Go online and look for good wedding budget templates that list every item you will be spending on, then merge the list so you have as complete a picture as possible. "There are so many little things couples don't often think about — taxes and gratuities for the venue and meals, alterations on the dress, gifts for wedding party and tips for vendors are common ones," Douglas said.

2 Set a budget. Figure out how much you have to spend and what you want your budget to be. "Most brides have a number in their head, but that might not match with the dream wedding they want," Douglas said.

3 Research costs in the area. "Often, brides make the mistake of going online and budgeting their wedding based on U.S. websites," Douglas said. "Make sure you get quotes from local vendors."

4 Set realistic expectations. Now it's time to make sure your dream wedding and your budget start to align. You may have to lower your expectations or increase your budget — usually a little of both.

5 Look for ways to save. "Figure out what's most important to you," Douglas said. "If it's flowers, for example, look for ways to save on stationary, desserts and decor so you can spend more on your flowers." Also, cut back on items that will have the least impact on the outcome of your wedding — maybe you can do without premium liquor or special lighting, for example. "The fastest way to lower your costs is to shop around for a less expensive venue or cut back on the number of guests." Remember, too, that Friday or Sunday weddings can be less expensive than Saturday.

6 Finally. Work out all these details before you start spending to keep your budget on track.

Let the crowd help fund your wedding

With an unexpected job opportunity in United Arab Emirates, Veronica Ramshaw and her fiancé, Jon, had to suddenly move up their wedding plans. Their small church wedding was going to cost $3,000, so they decided to try crowdfunding in hopes to raise the funds they needed. Not only did they meet their goal, they exceeded it.

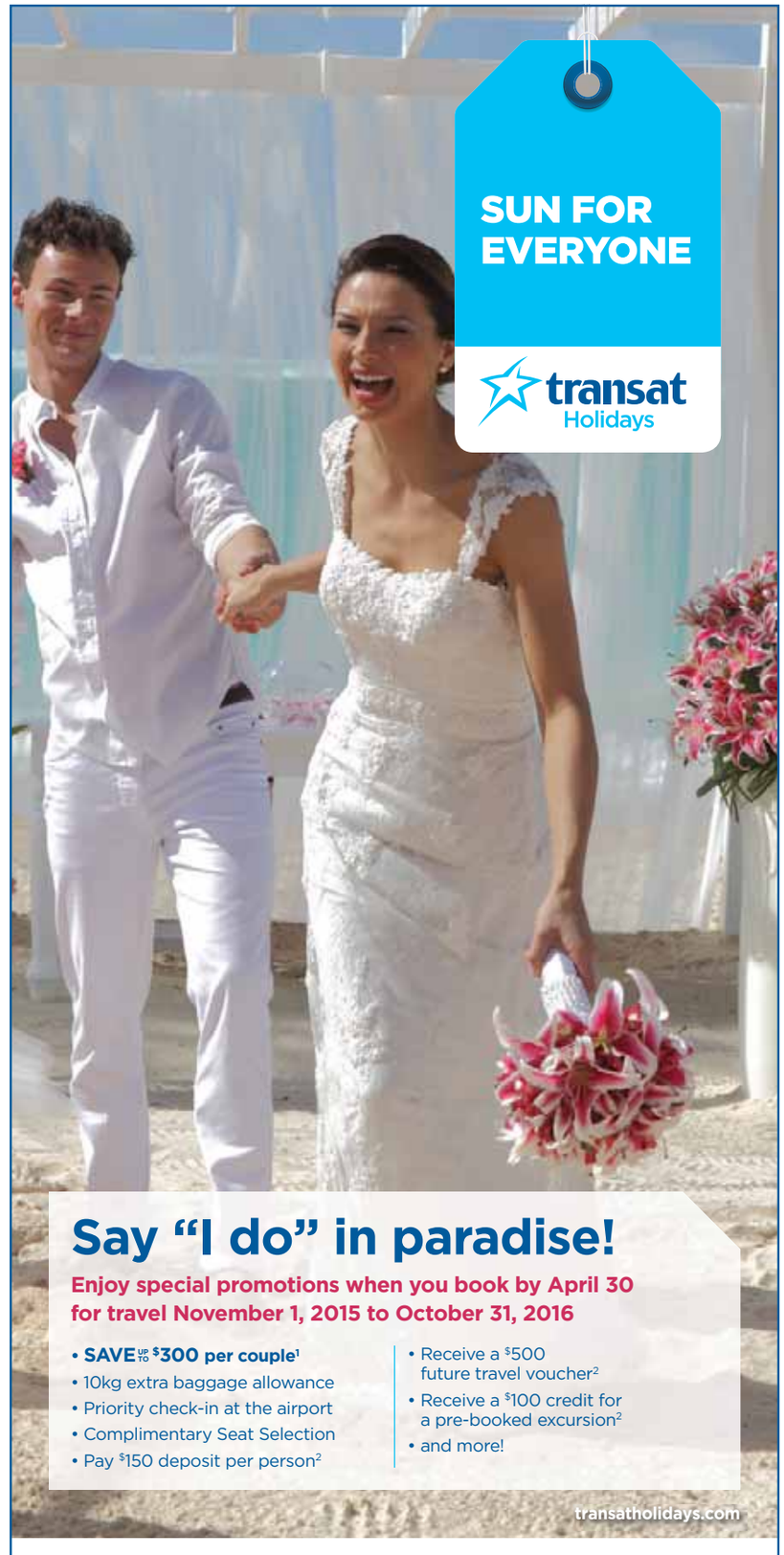
Crowdfunding is the easiest way to collect cash gifts from your wedding guests.

"You can have multiple campaigns for different parts of your wedding, like the bachelor party or the honeymoon, as well as wedding gifts," said Tim Ryan, country manager for Canada of Tilt.com, a crowdfunding website.

"We have a website and a mobile version. You come up with your idea, decide how much you want to collect, and in a couple steps on our website, your campaign is up and running. Then just send the link to your friends and family. Tilt.com just makes it easy for people to give you money they were going to give you anyway."

"Our friends and family absolutely blew me away with their incredible generosity," Ramshaw said. "I had been hoping we might hit $1,000. In the end, including people who donated to the campaign after our wedding, 41 people donated $3,265."

MICHELLE WILLIAMS/FOR METRO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What's big for the boys in 2015

Menswear trends are slower burning than womenswear, but it's still an exciting time for guy-style. Here's what will reign in the world of men's retail this coming year.

AFP

Matching shades

All white, all beige, neutrals ... this year is going to be about the refined use of colour palettes. On the Spring/Summer 2015 runways, London Burberry sent out lots of bright colours, but grouped them together, while at Calvin Klein Italo Zuchelli created lots of buzz with his hunky models in 'nude' beige tones. Tomas Maier took a similar approach with his neutral colours at Bottega Veneta. Some brands took it further and opted for all-white looks; from toothpaste-white bonded leather jackets at Neil Barrett to off-white tailoring paired with ice-white sportswear at Sergio Corneliani.

Checks and stripes

Patterns arrived on the S/S 2015 runways in classic formulations: windowpane checks, monochrome plaids and pinstripes. Frida Giannini at Gucci described her naval-striped lads as 'decadent admirals' and her fellow Italian Giorgio Armani dressed his deckhands in sun lounger striped red casual jackets. Milanese upstarts MSGM also mixed checked patterns with sportswear. When it came to pinstripes, as usual, it was London that was most on point. Matthew Miller revisited the city's Savile Row heritage with his deconstructed tailoring and Jonathan Anderson riffed on a tongue-in-cheek version business casual by creating apron shapes from the classic gentleman's staple.

A touch of dandyism

With all the minimalism, tailoring and sporty elements going on, you might be forgiven for thinking that menswear is getting a bit boring. Worry not. The rock 'n' roll touches aren't this coming year's biggest trend, but there are splashes of fun to be had. Paul Smith, Dries Van Noten, and Valentino all created stunning silk prints in pants and shirts (often paired with more restrained tailoring) for Spring 2015. Van Noten's use of colour was restrained (he stuck to pale gold, red, burgundy and navy) but his use of Richard Haines' illustrated dancers was more than eye-catching enough.

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Cookbook of the Week

A tangy approach

If you reach for a slice of key lime or lemon meringue pie rather than sweet cake, Pucker by Gwendolyn Richards is for you.

But using lemons, grapefruits and limes in the kitchen extends well past desserts. Richards' book also includes 100 recipes for drinks, salads, sides, breakfasts and mains. She even highlights tools and helpful hints.

Recipes include Moroccan Stew with Preserved Lemon, Citrus-Braised Pork Shoulder Tacos, Lemon Chicken, Peanut Soup, Flourless Chocolate-Lime Cake and Chewy Lemon Cookies. **METRO**

For your phone

Appetites' Easy As Pie (iPhone/iPad; $11.99)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
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Ideal for beginners, this step-by-step video instruction series featuring Evan Kleiman will take you through the making of 20 tasty pies, from different crusts to a variety of complimentary toppings.

A little lemony zip goes a long way

Main or side dish. This Barley Risotto with Lemon, Leeks and Peas isn't traditional, and that's a good thing

"It may be cheeky to call this a risotto since the traditional version uses rice, but the cooking technique is the same," writes Gwendolyn Richards in Pucker.

"The barley gets just as creamy as it cooks slowly with broth, but still stays a bit chewy for a much heartier dish. I like this with a lot of lemon zip, so I add the full tablespoon of lemon juice. Sprinkle some roughly chopped basil overtop just before serving for a bit more green and a herbal hit. This dish is excellent with roasted or pan-seared chicken."

1. In a small saucepan set over medium heat, bring the chicken stock to a low simmer. Keep it barely simmering as you prepare the risotto.

2. In a large saucepan set over medium heat, warm the oil and butter until the butter starts to foam slightly. Add the leeks and salt and sauté, stirring occasionally, until the leeks are softened, 2 to 3 minutes, then add the garlic and cook until it's fragrant, about a minute more. Stir in the pearl barley, mixing it with the leeks and garlic until each grain is coated and shimmering with the oil and butter and is slightly toasted, about 2 to 3 minutes. Pour in the white wine and stir until most of it is absorbed.

3. Begin adding the simmering stock, about half a cup (125 ml) at a time, stirring often and waiting until most of the liquid has been absorbed before adding more. It should take 4 to 5 minutes for the barley to soak up the liquid between additions. If it's taking a lot less time than that, reduce the heat. If it's taking more, turn up the heat.

4. Just after the last bit of stock has been added, stir in the peas. Add the cream, lemon zest, 1/2 a tablespoon (7.5 ml) of lemon juice and the Parmesan, then stir gently until everything is mixed together. Taste for seasonings, and add the rest of the lemon juice if desired. Sprinkle with additional Parmesan just before serving. **RECIPES FROM PUCKER: A COOKBOOK FOR CITRUS LOVERS BY GWENDOLYN RICHARDS (WHITECAP, 2014**

Ingredients

- 3 cups (750 ml) chicken stock
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) butter
- 3 medium leeks, white and pale green parts thinly sliced, rinsed and drained
- 1/2 tsp (2.5 ml) salt
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup (250 ml) pearl barley
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) dry white wine
- 3/4 cup (185 ml) fresh or frozen peas
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) whipping cream
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 1/2 to 1 tbsp (7.5 to 15 ml) lemon juice
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) grated
- Parmesan, plus more for sprinkling

This recipe serves four as a side dish and two as a main. GWENDOLYN RICHARDS

Ribbons of carrots and a drizzle of lime dressing

"Using carrots in a variety of colours makes for a gorgeous salad, but the regular orange ones are just as tasty," writes author, food writer and blogger Gwendolyn Richards in her book Pucker.

"The pistachios add a great crunch, while the cranberries play up the carrots' sweetness.

"Even friends and family who don't like carrots say they enjoy this salad."

1. Peel the carrots and then, using the peeler, lightly shave off layers of carrot in ribbons. In a bowl, mix the carrots, avocado slices, pistachios and cranberries.

2. In a jar with a lid or in a bowl, combine the lime juice, sugar, salt and pepper to taste. Give it a couple of shakes, or whisk together, and then add the oil. Shake or whisk again until emulsified. Pour a few tablespoons over the salad and toss lightly to keep the avocado from getting too mushy. Add more dressing as needed.

Ingredients

- 1 lb (500 g) carrots
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) pistachios
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) dried cranberries

Dressing

- 2 tbsp (30 ml) lime juice
- 11/2 tsp (7.5 ml) sugar
- 3/4 tsp (4 ml) salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) extra
- Virgin olive oil

This recipe serves two to four. GWENDOLYN RICHARDS

‘Bespoke’ decor brings upcycled bikes indoors

Bikes have become part of hipster culture. There are bicycle-themed dining, drinking and shopping establishments from Halifax to Vancouver and dozens of bike-friendly burgs in between. While the rides themselves are often tricked out with coloured tires, swanky seats and vintage baskets, there are also those who see more than the sum of two wheels, a frame and a seat. Designers and artists are creating furnishings and art that give bicycles a whole new way to roll

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sexy sprockets

Canadian cyclist and metal artisan Gilbert VandenHeuvel turns out all sorts of reworked bicycle art and accessories from his studio in Goderich, Ont.

“The sexy sprockets, curvy rims, flexible rubber and sturdy frame make for endless design possibilities,” he says. Bikes are “almost begging to be reborn, reshaped into something surprising and beautiful.” THERECYCLER.CA

Handlebar taxidermy

Designer Hilary Nagler of Santa Barbara, Calif., plays with a similar idea, making “bicycle taxidermy” by mounting handlebar “horns” on a basswood plaque. Ebonizing the handlebars gives them a rustic patina and vintage esthetic. Nagler says the pieces are a “sentimental nod to my beloved childhood Schwinn,” while also tipping an artsy hat to Picasso’s bull’s-head motif.

ROBERT REDFIELD/FLEA MARKET RX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Popping wheelies

The Bicycle Collection was created by upcycling discarded bicycle rims, pedals and frames. The result is a set of rustic yet sophisticated designs that are instantly recognizable as repurposed. The Bicycle Screen is made from three panels that are hinged together, allowing for many configurations. DIANA PARRISH DESIGN + PHOTOGRAPHY/PHILLIPS COLLECTION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Being consistent with colour and tones creates visual flow in open concept spaces. Antiqued Oak Iron Springs engineered wide plank flooring, $10 square foot, KentwoodFloors.com
CONTRIBUTED

How to decorate an open-plan space at home

Designer tips. Our design expert explains how to give your open-concept home a seamless flow

I recently purchased a two-level small townhouse that has an open layout. I am attempting to decorate the main floor space. Any tricks or hints? — Rob, Halifax

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Choosing an open concept kitchen/living space is a great option for young families (where parents are in the kitchen and children are in the living space); folks who entertain in a big way (since most parties end up in the kitchen, anyway); or people who want to make a small home feel more spacious.

Here are a few rules to follow if you want each area's decor to flow easily.

Choose one look

Your kitchen's esthetic should be similar to the living space. For example, if you have modern furnishings in the living/dining area, then the kitchen should have cabinetry, counters and finished that mimic that modern feel.

Divide without walls

There should be a visual divider between the living area for entertaining and kitchen area for cooking. A kitchen work island, desk or table with chairs should be used as a barrier to the working area of the kitchen. This helps to visually keep the fun and games in the living area and the working kitchen functioning smoothly and safely.

Sliding barn-style doors are a great way to keep offices and dens open to the rest of the house yet offer privacy when needed.

Keep flooring similar

Flooring should flow from one area to another without jarring the eye with light then dark tones. For example, having medium wood toned flooring in your living space, then a medium brown stone in the foyer, a similar tone of brown in the kitchen tile and a similar colour of broadloom for a den area will create the feeling of one large floor space.

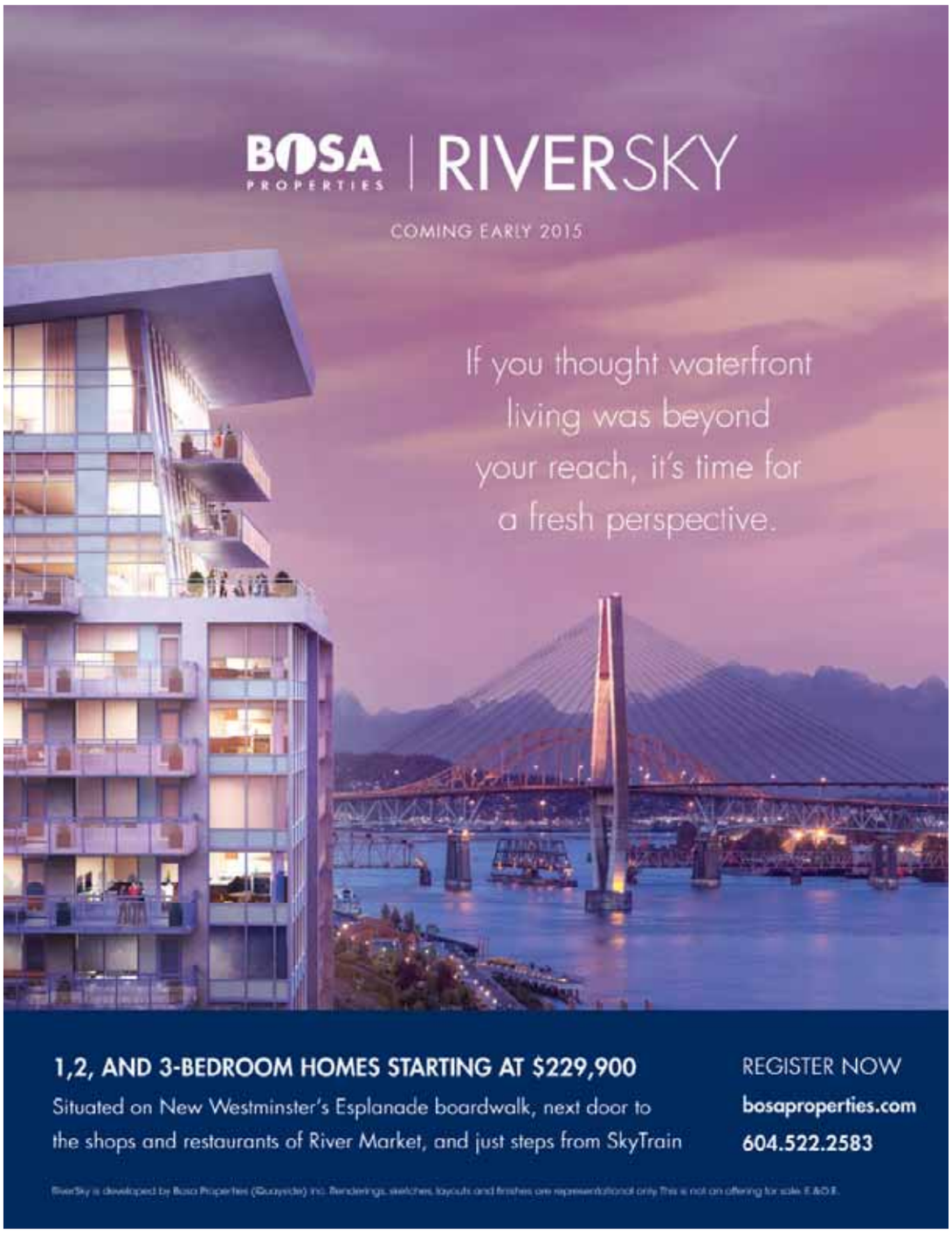
A foyer carpet runner should take its cue for colour and pattern from larger area rugs in other areas throughout the open-concept space.

Match up the details

Window treatments, hardware metal tones and wall colours should also blend from one area to another in an open-concept home. Similar window shade styles and colours should be used throughout the main floor. The metallic colours and styles of doorknobs, cabinet hardware and lighting should all be co-ordinated, and paint colours also need to blend.

By decorating all the areas of your main floor as one large space, you will simplify the decorating process and create visual flow.

Orissa area rug (left), from $600, CrateAndBarrel.com; MSI's Mare Bianco 12x24 inch porcelain tile (above), $4 each, HomeDepot.ca
ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED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4 SPORTS

Scoring woes

Canucks failing to capitalize on PP

The Canucks' power play has been hot at times, cold at others.

The club has now gone four games in a row without scoring on the man advantage — an 0-for-10 stretch that followed a sudden two-game outburst that included three power-play goals in five opportunities.

Not only have the power-play goals been hard to come by lately, so too have power-play chances. And for a team sitting in the bottom third of the league in goals at 5-on-5, that spells trouble.

On two occasions in the last eight games, the Canucks have gone without a single power play. On two other occasions, they've had only one power play.

Prior to this five-game road trip, which includes a date with the Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday, head coach Willie Desjardins stressed the importance of his team needing to draw more penalties, to get more chances on the power play.

The onus isn't on the officials; it's on the players.

"We got to be harder, we've got to draw more penalties," said Desjardins.

"I think if you're battling hard, other teams get frustrated. When they get frustrated, they take penalties. We're pushing them, but we're not pushing them to a point where they get frustrated and taking penalties. We have to get to that point." **CAM TUCKER/METRO**

McCann in a groove with Greyhounds

Canucks prospects report. 'He's a threat at all times,' says Sault Ste. Marie GM

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Canucks prospect Jared McCann has helped the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds earn first-place status in the OHL's Western Conference. AARON BELL/OHL IMAGES

When Vancouver Canucks prospects hit the ice in Penticton last September, there was one noticeable absence — first-round pick Jared McCann.

A bout of mononucleosis had him on his way back to Ontario shortly after he arrived in the Okanagan for the Young Stars Tournament, and caused him to miss the first four games of the regular season for the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

"It was really frustrating. I worked really hard in the summer and built up to try and make a good impression on everybody there," said McCann in a phone interview Tuesday.

He has since found his offensive groove, with 16 goals and 40 points in 33 games. The Greyhounds, meanwhile, have found their winning groove, sitting atop the OHL's Western Conference with a 30-9-0-2 record and 62 points heading into Wednesday's action.

"It took him a little bit to get in his rhythm," said Greyhounds general manager Kyle Raftis.

Last month, the 18-year-old centre went on a tear with 18 points in 10 games, including a five-point night against the Saginaw Spirit.

McCann has spent the last two games playing on a line with 19-year-old Nick Ritchie, selected 10th overall in last year's draft and fresh off a gold medal with Canada's world junior team, and Blake Speers, who is draft eligible this year, with 44 points in 37 games.

The Greyhounds acquired Ritchie in a deal with the Peterborough Petes just before the OHL trade deadline.

"It will be interesting to see where that line goes," said Raftis. "It's got a great mix of speed, size and skill."

McCann, who signed an entry-level deal with the Canucks last summer, says he's played the entire season with Speers. The addition of Ritchie to that line has been a brief one.

On the Greyhounds, McCann is used both on the power play and penalty kill — he has two short-handed goals — and is a strong possession player and two-way centre, according to Raftis.

"He's a threat at all times," said Raftis.

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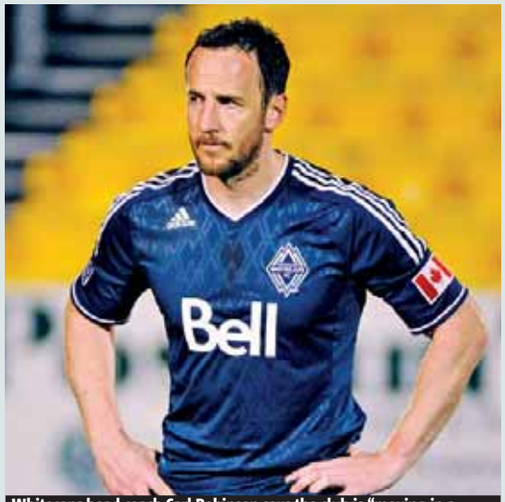

Whitecaps head coach Carl Robinson says the club is "moving in a different direction" and that popular defender Andy O'Brien, pictured, will probably be one of the odd men out. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Whitecaps

O'Brien likely done in Vancouver

It appears Andy O'Brien, a popular figure with soccer fans in Vancouver, will not be back with the Whitecaps.

Speaking in a conference call with reporters on Wednesday, Whitecaps head coach Carl Robinson said the club and O'Brien, the veteran 35-year-old centre back whose contract expired at the end of the 2014 season, couldn't agree on a new deal.

"We've been unable to come to an agreement," said Robinson.

"As far as Andy is probably concerned, we're probably going to be moving in a different direction now."

Robinson added that O'Brien is exploring other options in Europe.

The club first brought O'Brien to Vancouver in the summer of 2012. Despite a 2013 season that was disrupted by injury, he was a steady presence on the back line.

The Whitecaps announced the acquisition of left-footed centre back Diego Rodriguez on a one-year loan with a transfer option from Club Atlético Juventud de Las Piedras of the Uruguayan Primera Division.

The club has had discussions with another left-footed centre back in Johnny Leveron; however, those two sides are also not close to a deal, according to Robinson.

The Whitecaps previously declined the option on Leveron's contract. He initially signed with the Whitecaps in February of 2013, appearing in 34 games.

"We're in talks with him and his agent but we're not very close to agreeing on anything at the moment."

The Major League Soccer SuperDraft goes Thursday. The Whitecaps pick 13th overall. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Hadwin's mind clear for return to PGA links

Golf. Rising star from Abbotsford preps for the Sony Open in Hawaii

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Abbotsford's Adam Hadwin says he is ready and focused to start play on the PGA Tour after taking a month-long break from his golf clubs in the fall. MICHAEL COHEN/GETTY IMAGES

It's nice and warm in Hawaii.

The pride of Abbotsford and PGA Tour player Adam Hadwin filled reporters in on the weather conditions — mostly cloudy but a pleasant 22 C, according to a local TV station just after 7 a.m. HST — during a conference call Wednesday morning.

Hadwin will be one of five Canadians, including fellow Abbotsford golfer and PGA Tour winner Nick Taylor, competing in the Sony Open at the Waialae Country Club. The tournament, with a winning share of $1 million (and change), begins Thursday.

"Nothing too bad to say about starting the year off in Hawaii," said the 27-year-old Hadwin.

Hadwin is coming off a successful but whirlwind 2014 season that saw him top the combined money list on the Web.com Tour with nine top-10 finishes and two victories.

He earned his PGA Tour card and is now fully exempt for the 2014-15 season, which actually started back in early October.

Hadwin admitted that the grind of last season, working to get his PGA Tour card and then joining that big circuit right away in October took a toll.

By mid-November, when he failed to make the cut at the OHL Classic in Mexico, he was in need of some time off.

"I was definitely drained," said Hadwin. "By the end of Mexico, I was ready to put some distance between me and my clubs for a while."

Hadwin was back swinging the clubs by the middle of December, and was able to get in some work with coach Brett Saunders.

"I've said it a few times — it feels really weird to start my season this quickly," said Hadwin, adding he had been working on his game in Phoenix since about Dec. 28.

Hadwin said he plans to play in 25 to 28 events this year, before the FedEx Cup playoffs begin.

"This year, I'm just more focused on making sure I'm prepared as I can be for each event."

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Canucks were a bubble team all along

Canucks defenceman Dan Hamhuis
GETTY IMAGES

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Matt Larkin
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Don't panic, Vancouver Canucks, but at the same time, panic. There's nothing to worry about if you accept this team is exactly where it was supposed to be at the start of the season. It had a hodge-podge of veterans hoping for bounce-back years under a new coach, it paid big money for a free-agent goalie and most of its top prospects weren't ready to contribute at the NHL level yet.

The Canucks were a bubble team all along, and here they are, exactly 41 games into the season, two points up for the Western Conference's final playoff spot but losers of three straight. Sooner or later, president Trevor Linden and GM Jim Benning will have to make a decision: Is this team good enough now to warrant trading for immediate help? Or is any success this year considered gravy now that the Canucks finally have an improving prospect cupboard?

If it's the former, is it time to explore a trade for defensive help? The Canucks have been beaten often on poor decisions by their patchwork blue-line, which have led to too many odd-man rushes, as was the case in Tuesday's ugly 5-1 defeat to Nashville. The Canucks need every kind of help on defense, as their blue-line scoring has been lackluster, with no D-man on pace for even 30 points, and they could use some size and grit, too. Benning could try to kill two birds with one stone and call up the sinking Toronto Maple Leafs about Cody Franson, who would give Vancouver's power play a boost, piles up hits and is a pending unrestricted free agent.

Goal-less slump

31

Games since Dan Hamhuis scored a goal, dating back to last season

At the same time, patience could pay off, as the Canucks are about to acquire some help from within. Dan Hamhuis is set to return from his groin injury before the end of the team's five-game road trip. Given Vancouver is teetering on the brink of buyer versus seller status anyway, it may be prudent to see how much Hamhuis' return helps.

And Hamhuis isn't the surefire savior he would've been even a year ago. Groin injuries can be nagging and, more importantly, Hamhuis really struggled to start 2014-15, especially on offense. He had zero goals in 20 games. Ultimately, Hamhuis should have a significant impact on the Canucks going forward one way or another. If he's back to his old self, he's exactly what this team was missing. If he flounders again, it'll force Benning to seek more help — or accept that the Canucks aren't ready to contend.

MLS

Toronto FC pulls off striker swap

Toronto FC has pulled off its complicated striker swap.

Jermain Defoe reportedly passed a medical in Sunderland on Wednesday. And two sources with knowledge of the deal said Black Cats striker Jozy Altidore will become a Toronto FC player.

The U.S. international, who has agreed to terms, is due in Toronto on Thursday for a medical with a contract signing to follow if all goes well. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Wild's problems run deep

On Wednesday, the Wild traded a third-round pick to the Arizona Coyotes for goaltender Devan Dubnyk, but that's no guarantee it'll solve enough of Minnesota's problems to turn this season around.

The issues go beyond coach Mike Yeo and goaltending. Zach Parise said the Wild have been "fragile," and meeting after meeting won't solve what's ailing a team on a six-game losing skid. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Memphis soars above Nets

Nets small forward Joe Johnson avoids Tony Allen of the Memphis Grizzlies during their game at the Barclays Center on Wednesday night in Brooklyn. Zach Randolph had 20 points and 14 rebounds and the Grizzlies beat the slumping Nets 103-92 in their first matchup against former coach Lionel Hollins. AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES

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AUGMENTED REALITY

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→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The best way to get what you want is to pull strings behind the scenes. If you tackle issues head-on today you may find yourself up against people who are stronger — and you'll lose.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Don't worry too much if you fall out with a friend today because it's really no big deal. It could even be beneficial in that you may need to clear the air.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Winning may not be everything but it isn't nothing either. If you get the chance to be number one today, take it. Mars in the career area of your chart makes it easy to be assertive.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may be short of cash but you can still find ways to get what you want. If you can't satisfy your needs one way you will satisfy them another – and it won't cost you a cent.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If someone annoys you today you won't hesitate to challenge them. The bad news is they could turn out to be a tougher nut to crack than you expected.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There is tension in the air and partners and colleagues could be difficult to deal with over the next 24 hours. Don't overreact and say or do things that make matters worse. It'll pass.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will have to do something you don't want to do today and most likely you will let everyone know — loudly — it isn't your idea of fun. Be professional.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You are in one of your assertive moods today. Just be careful you don't annoy someone whose cooperation you may need in the near future.

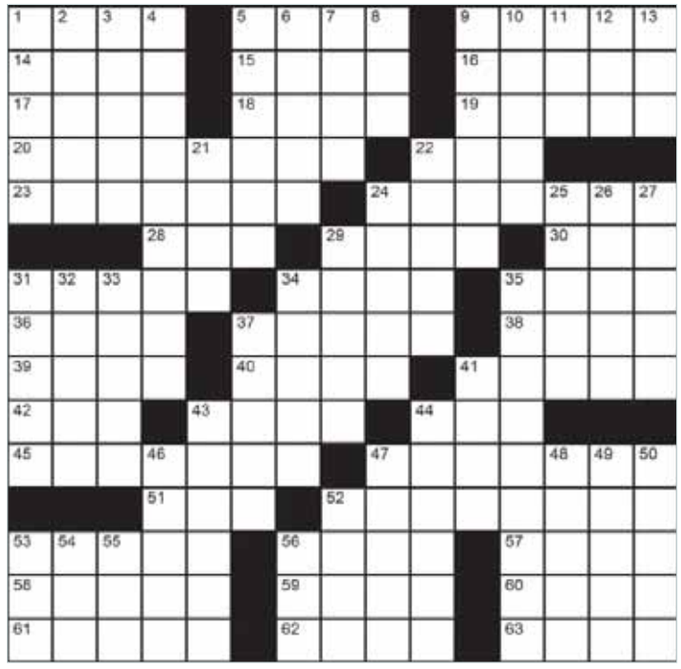
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't try too hard to keep your emotions bottled up because it will be better for your health if you let your feelings show. You also need to prove that you are not intimidated by people who throw their weight around.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Travel and social activities are well starred right now but don't stray too far in the wrong direction. It's one thing to be adventurous but quite another to be foolhardy.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't push yourself too hard over the next 24 hours. Some days were made for taking it easy and the planets indicate that this is one of them.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
With Mars in your sign you refuse to accept second best. But as Mars squares up to limitations planet Saturn today recognize that authority figures need to be respected.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan

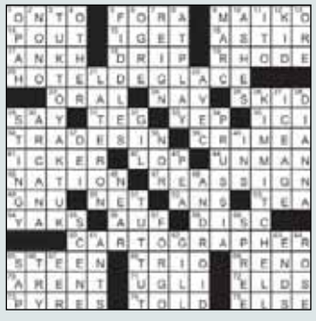


Across
1. Music key, _ ___.
5. Breakfast's yellow circle
9. Overeat
14. Kinks tune
15. The Secret World __ __ (1961 Pierre Berton children's book)
16. Wickerwork material
17. Triumph's "Lay __ __ the Line"
18. ET-piloted crafts
19. Nintendo enthusiast
20. Elusive treasure site on the Mahone Bay island at #22-Across: 2 wds.
22. Nova Scotia-based History Channel show, "The Curse of __ Island"
23. Principle
24. Cartoon-turned-movie-of-1997 starring Leslie Nielsen: 2 wds.
28. Polloi's partner
29. Ancient garment
30. Oprah's __! moment
31. Tennis great Mr. Becker
34. Prefix to 'legal'
35. Concert headliner
36. Figure skating jump
37. Compare
38. Study carefully, __ over
39. Orange part
40. One-and-onlys, once
41. Divulged
42. Tribute type
43. Chicoutimi 'corn'
44. "In __ Shoes" (2005)
45. 1980s music genre: 2 wds.
47. St-__ Bagel, in Montreal
51. Johnny Mathis' "Chances __"
52. Janis sang about a 'dirty red' one, variantly
53. Be appreciative
56. __ Kong
57. Loonie, for one
58. Role for Canuck comic Mike
59. Musicals lyricist Tim
60. Voltaire play
61. Tragically Hip's "__ by a Century"
62. Toboggan
63. Bible pronoun

Down
1. Bowl game airship
2. Detroit aka The __ City
3. Solo
4. As per #46-Down...
Timmins
10. City of Honshu in Japan
11. The Pacific __
12. "Golly."
13. Drift
21. Beefeaters, briefly
22. __ donor
24. Traditions
25. Swamp snapper, shortly
26. Windy City airport
27. Paddled
29. Moviemaking units
31. Aristocrat
32. Iron __ (Rusty stuff)
33. Don't let the membership expire
34. __ cut (Short hairstyle)
35. Mascot of the Ottawa Senators
37. Bequeath
41. Rosary piece
43. Checked, as test papers
44. Attached, door-style
46. "Don't __ Fall in Love" (Hit tune written by #4-Down)
47. "The Legend of Bagger __" (2000)
48. Cain's biblical son
49. Amalgamate
50. Montreal-based jazz vocalist Ms. Lee
52. Swelter
53. Ex-airline
54. Defiant laugh!
55. Mariner's assent
56. Time segments [abbr.]

Toronto-born singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
5. Montreal Canadiens mascot!
6. "Oh, come __ __."
(Let's be real)
7. Ransack
8. Canada's version of lbs.
9. Northeastern Ontario: Community between Sudbury and

Yesterday's Crossword

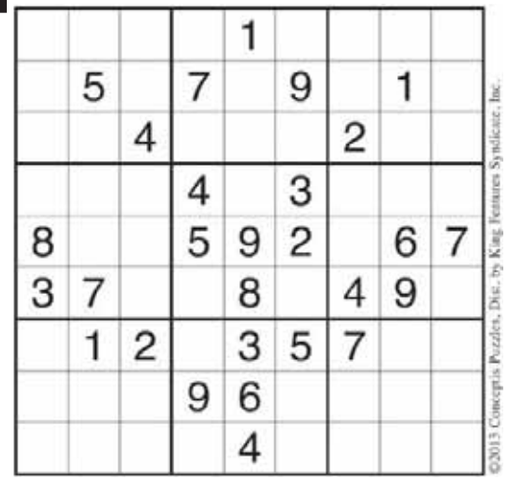


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	5	7	3	8	4	6	2
8	4	2	9	5	6	7	3	1
7	3	6	2	1	4	9	5	8
2	5	3	1	8	7	6	4	9
4	8	9	5	6	3	1	2	7
6	7	1	4	2	9	3	8	5
1	2	7	3	4	5	8	9	6
3	9	8	6	7	2	5	1	4
5	6	4	8	9	1	2	7	3

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HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/8.0L

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